

Swamp Fox Scene

A FREE monthly news magazine for the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 3, Issue 8

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 2013

Activities kick off New Year

Olde Towne Marion (HMRA), the Arts Council of Marion County, and others are making plans for various events to kick off Marion's 2013 list of activities.

Olde Towne's monthly business networking opportunity, Rise & Shine, will be on Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 8:30 a.m. in Audery's Embroidery on Main Street. Come and bring a friend!

Magnolia's on Main will play host to a limited-number-seating dinner on Jan. 11. This is for ticket holders only. Call 431-9320 or 423-9918 to make a reservation. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and tickets are \$14.95 each.

Olde Towne will have an Oyster Roast at Rosewood Manor on Main Street on Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. Other foods will be available. Tickets are \$35 each.

Plan now for the Arts Council's "Taste of Marion County," Jan. 31 in the Marion County Technical Education Center. The tasting begins at 5 p.m. and tickets are \$15 each. Call 423-9918 for details on any of these events.

Filing opens Jan. 9 for city elections; Citizens must be registered by March 9 Voter ID Law in effect

The City of Marion General Election for Council seats in Districts 3, 5 and 6 and for Mayor will be on Tuesday, April 9.

This year, the state's new Voter ID law, which requires that each voter has an identification card with a photograph of the voter on it, is in effect. Filing for candidates begins Wednesday, Jan. 9 at noon and closes on Thursday, Feb. 7 at noon. The last day to register to vote in the April election is March 9. To find out more about having a proper ID at

the polling precincts, or to see where you will vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 137 Airport Court off East U.S. Highway 76 or call Teresa Moody at 423-8268.

Additionally, political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including the right of way.

Signs picked up for being improperly posted may be collected at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street and can be claimed by candidates.



City has annual Arbor Day planting

The Azalea Garden Club and others in the community gathered on December 7 on the Marion Hike-Bike Trail for the annual Arbor Day Celebration. Shown are garden club members and students after the planting of a Sugar Maple Tree in memory of Gault Beeson. Beeson was a Marion County Commissioner and long-time administrator. Additionally, a tree was planted in memory of Wilton Eskridge. Eskridge's tree, a crepe myrtle, is the first in the city's Trees for Trail program.

Businesses ready to take the next "jump" into getting started

Fourteen of the 17 participants in this year's Business Jump Start program are making plans to go into business for themselves, according to Brianna Zhang, who administered the four-week program about starting and operating micro-businesses. Zhang is program manager of the Francis Marion University Center for Entrepreneurship. The program is the second such program offered free to participants.

This time, a grant from the Marion County Healthcare Foundation, in conjunction with the University and the City of Mar-

ion, paid for the program. The varied backgrounds of the participants included artists, beauticians, health and fitness entrepreneurs, truck drivers and more.

Each took the time to study and attend classes, creating a business plan to direct their endeavors. Zhang, shown on left in photograph at right, with a student, said the program was definitely a success. One business is already up and running. Those who start their business will receive a special Business Jump Start Launch package. For more information, Zhang at 843-661-1112.



CITY NEWS

Brown is city's newest employee of the month

The City of Marion selected Sanitation Department employee James Brown as its November 2012 Employee of the Month. James, or "JB" as he is known to his fellow employees, has been employed with the City since October 2006 and is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting those items to the landfill.



"JB was chosen for this award because he is a team player who is always willing to lend a helping hand to his co-workers", said Sanitation Superintendent Winky Fore. "He recognizes when something needs to be done and steps in to complete the job wherever and whenever there is a need."

Brown and his wife, Portugal, live in Marion with their four children. The Mayor and Council recognized James for his contributions and dedication to the City of Marion during the December City Council Meeting.

The Mayor and City Council thank you for kind your support of the Christmas Food for Friends program!

150 boxes of food were given to families in Marion because of the generous donations.

Additionally, several city employees, several of whom are shown below, donated to make Christmas a happier event for two local children.

It was wonderful to play "Santa" again, one employee said.



Save the date and check it out!

PBS show to air footage filmed in Marion during Spring

Storyline and crews travel from Charleston to county

Ann and Denley Caughman, owners of Marion's very international The Grove, a bed and breakfast on Harilee Place, have been notified by PBS show officials that a segment for a show filmed in Marion will air in January.

In the spring of this year, the "History Detectives" (visit them at <http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/>) put together a segment entitled

"Bill of Sale." It will air on Jan. 8, 2013 at 8 p.m.

This segment is about a bill of sale for a female slave who was bought in Charleston and brought to Marion County to work on a plantation.

Finding a bill of sale for a female is rare, historians say, so the team sought to put together the woman's story. Their venture led them from Charleston to Marion.

When film crews from the show visited Marion County, filming and con-

ducting interviews for the segment, one interviewed was Maxcy Foxworth, Director of the Marion County Archives & History Center.

Filming also was conducted at The Grove and in surrounding rural areas of Marion County, as well as in Charleston.

For several days during the filming in the area crew members and the host of the History Detectives, as well as the owner of the bill of sale, stayed in Marion at Rosewood, a bed and breakfast on Main Street, and The Grove.

Get to know your City Council



RODNEY BERRY

Mayor

Mayor Rodney Berry was elected in April 2009. His term ends in April 2013. He can be reached by calling his office telephone at **843-423-8235**.



RONALD ATKINSON

Mayor Pro Tem
District 2

Council member Ronald Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-230-0072**.



RALPH ATKINSON

District 1

Council member Ralph Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-250-0446**.



BETSY ATKINSON

District 3

Council member Betsy Atkinson was elected in April 2009. Her term ends in April 2013. She can be reached at **843-430-1137**.



BOBBY DAVIS

District 4

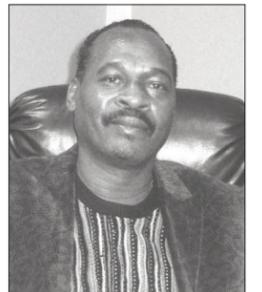
Council member Bobby Davis was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at **843-423-4655**.



ODESSA GREGG

District 5

Council member Odessa Gregg was elected in April 2011. Her term ends in 2013. She can be reached at **843-275-0265**.



MICHAEL BAKER

District 6

Council member Michael Baker was reelected in April 2009. His term ends in 2013. He can be reached by telephone at **843-597-3617**.



Donation aides seniors

Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank has donated a motorized Hoveround Chair to the Marion County Council on Aging. The Council will loan the chair to those families who have a family member experiencing mobility challenges. Ernestine Wright, executive director of the MCCA, accepted the chair from Ralph Atkinson, executive vice president at Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank. Wright, above at right, said she is pleased that the Council will be able to offer this service to families with these needs and that the Council already has the first family in mind. "You just can't believe how happy and excited they are," she added. Hoveround provides power chairs, electric scooters, and other mobility solutions to improve the quality of life for those with limited mobility, Atkinson said. "We are happy to help the Council's families in this way."

Coming in January

Keep up with what's going on in and around Marion!



1, Tuesday, City offices closed to observe New Year's Day Holiday.

8, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

9, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Rise & Shine! Business networking opportunity at Audery's Embroidery on Main Street. Come and bring a friend!

11, Friday, 6 p.m., Mediterranean night at Magnolia's on Main. More information on Page 1.

21, City offices closed to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Day.

26, Saturday, 6 p.m., Oyster Roast fundraiser for Olde Towne Marion, HMRA, at Rosewood Manor, Main Street. \$35 per ticket for all you can eat prime select oysters; other food items available. Price also includes beverage. See Page 1 for more information.

31, Thursday, 5-8p.m., Taste of Marion County, Marion County Technical Education Center. \$15 per person. Call Chuck at 423-9918 for details.

28, Monday, Marion Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Marion Baptist Church. Guest speaker is Major Gen. Abraham J. Turner, executive director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. Information and tickets available at the Chamber Office. For details, call Judy at 423-3561.

Coming in February: Celebrating Black History Month; Celebrating Gen. Francis Marion Days, including our Living History exhibits, Historic RunFest, and Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off; Marion Baptist Church's annual "Judgement House."

Stay tuned for details!



VFW gives basket to family at Thanksgiving

VFW Post # 10319, members of whom are shown at left, gave a Thanksgiving basket to the family of Laura Mae McCollough. The family consists of Dajuan, Quazeck, Nykeese, Whopper, Dyasia, Nyasia and William.

Post Commander Duncan Godbolt and Trustee Mitchell Lee Bacote presented the "Love Harvest Basket" to the family.

The Post gives back to the community in the form of financial assistance, food, scholastic assistance to veterans and families of veterans that may need aide, all a part of its Community Service Program, as and when funds are available.

The Post is in the process of obtaining a grant to construct a building on the property that was the old Jail. Once constructed, the building will be used to conduct VFW business, contain an area to be used as a community center plus a portion to be used as a feeding program for disadvantaged veterans in the County.

Questions about your water or sewer bill?

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at **(843) 765-4539**

or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, **843-423-5961**, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you...

Mayor Rodney Berry, 843-423-8235

City Administrator, Building Official Alan Ammons, Ext. 19

City Clerk Pam Jones, Ext. 10

City Treasurer Patricia Brown, Ext. 18

Municipal Court Clerk

Heather Evans, 843-423-8616

Personnel, Purchasing Director

Elizabeth Fick, 843-423-8614

Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant

Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11

Recreation Admin Assistant

Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina.

Printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper. The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For information about the newspaper, call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS. SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN.

Together, we can make a difference ... The City of Marion has a **TEXT A TIP** line ... See a crime happening? Have a TIP?

Text it to 430-0938.

Text-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938

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SPORTS & RECREATION



2013 Recreation basketball kicks off Jan. 5

Marion Recreation Department will kick off its 2013 Basketball Season on Jan. 5 with scrimmages starting at 9 a.m. in the A.C. Tollison Gym.

All are invited to come and support the players and coaches. They have been practicing hard since early December, as shown in the photograph above.

We are looking forward to another great basketball season! There will be a \$1 admission fee as a recreation department fundraiser. Children six and younger will be free.

City offers yoga, aerobics to all

Yoga classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Fire Department substation

on Sen. Gasque Road. Classes are \$5 a session or \$30 a month. Come and bring a friend!

Aerobics is offered in the C.D. Joyner Fine Arts Center on Elizabeth Street each week day, Monday through Friday, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. This class is also \$30 a month. Come by on one of the above days to talk to Lillie Ann Sanders about joining the class and to get more information.

Each night there is something different going on, from kick boxing to cardio and more.

City offers free computer Lab

Need to use a computer to apply for a job or conduct research? The Swamp Fox Computer Lab is free and open to the public in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center on Elizabeth Street.

The computer lab is open from 10 – 11:45 a.m. and re-opens after lunch from 2–5:45 p.m. For more information, stop by and talk to Robbie Johnson or call him at 423-6447.

Ping Pong Club meets in Watsonia

Marion Recreation Department's Ping Pong Club meets twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.

Feel free to stop by either evening and check them out! Everyone is welcome come practice and play. It's free to city residents. Call 423-5410 for details.

Rentals available for 2013

Are you looking for a place to host a birthday party, baby shower or family get together?

We have the perfect locations for you. Grice's and Watsonia Recreation Centers each have kitchens with a stove, microwave, refrigerator, tables and chairs.

Looking to be outside? We offer Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter on Green Street. This location has a picnic shelter with picnic style tables, running water, bathroom facilities and a grilling facility.

If you are interested in any of these locations, call 423-5410 to check the site's availability.

Bingo, exercise offered free to seniors

Senior flexibility exercises will start again on Jan. 3, following the Christmas break. Classes are each Monday and Thursday from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

There is always room for newcomers! Join us and "let's keep moving!" The class is free, though donations are appreciated.

Marion Recreation's Senior Bingo is played the first and third Thursday of each month from 8:30–9:30 a.m.

We offer refreshments to enjoy while you play and prizes for those who win. If you have any questions about this program please call 423-5410.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Don't forget to find us on Facebook under "Marion Recreation Department." We keep the site updated with game schedules, cancellations, pictures, holiday closings and much more. Check it out!

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month

Denley and Ann Caughman, owners of The Grove at 408 Harllee Place, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for December 2012. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and who add so much to our community's unique character. Denley and Ann Caughman will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.



GET REGISTERED today ...

for classes in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center!

Florence-Darlington Technical College registration is underway

Call 843-676-8550 for details about courses.